MINUTES

—OF THE—

SEVENTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

BETHLEHEM

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

PILGRIM'S REST BAPTIST CHURCH, BREWTON, ALA.,

Beginning Tuesday, September 27, 1887.

OFFICERS:

J. W. LESLIE, ... Moderator.
THOS. S. WIGGINS, ... Clerk.
E. P. LOVELESS ..... Treasurer.

The next Session will be held with Georgiana Baptist Church, Georgiana, Ala., beginning at 11 o'clock, on Tuesday before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1888.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
THE ALABAMA BAPTIST PRINT.
1887.

MINUTES.

The Seventy-first Annual Sessson of the Bethlehem Baptist Association was held with Pilgrim's Rest Church, at Brewton, Escambia county, Alabama, beginning on Tuesday, September 27, 1887:

The Association convened at 11 o'clock, a. m., and after devotional exercises, conducted by Rev. William Edwards, was called to order by the Moderator, G. R. Farnham.

In the absence of the Clerk, the Moderator appointed C. S. Rabb Clerk *pro tem.*, and announced the session ready for business.

The following committees were then appointed, to-wit:

On the Enrollment of Delegates—Jno P Watkins, T S Wiggins, J T Fincher.

On Religious Worship—Rev J E Bell, W T Nettles, W B Kemp and the Deacons of Pilgrim's Rest Church.

On Special Business—C H Hightower, S P Lindsey, W A Fountain.

The Committee on Worship recommended preaching at the Methodist Church by Rev. B. J. Skinner, at the Baptist Church by Dr. B. F. Riley, and at Crawfordville by Rev. John Holly, at 7:30 p. m.

The Committee on Enrollment of Delegates made their report, which was adopted, as follows.

From Belleville Church—James Straughn, W R Burt, J C Ballard, R H Riggs and G R Stamps.

From Bethany—Rev B J Skinner, J P Watkins, D H Lee.

From Brooklyn—C A Thames, H M Rabun and W N Brawner.

From Brushy Creek—J T Joiner.

From Claiborne—Rev R I Draughan, John Thames and James Thames.

From Cedar Creek—M P Stewart.

From Catawba Springs—Mathew Crossley.

From Damascus—W S Davis and M H Saunders.

From Enon—Burrell Quincey.

From Evergreen—Rev B H Crumpton, G R Farnham, C S Rabb, Jas T Fincher.

From Fairfield—C A Sinquefield, W B Salter and B B McMillan.

From Georgiana—Rev J E Bell and Rev Jehu Holly.
From Long Branch—D J Foshee and J H Barrow.
From Monroeville—J W Leslie, S P Lindsey, W L Pikard and Thos S Wiggins.
From Mars Hill—J C Boone and A Boone.
From Mt Carmel—C M Arnold, M E B Robinson and W T King.
From Midway—J R Anthony.
From Olive Branch—L L Long.
From Old Town—Rev I Spence, F M Deer.
From Oak Grove—E Hanks.
From Philadelphia—W T Nettles and W B Kemp.
From Pleasant Ridge—J A W Lowery, Joseph Staunton and Winfrey Riggs.
From Pleasant Hill—R T Solomon and Monroe Stacey.
From Poplar Springs—Martin Dees and David DeWise.
From Pilgrim's Rest—E P Loveless, E M Loveless, Rev J E Deer, A F Johnson, W A Loveless.
From Point Pleasant—S J Holland, S L Lowery.
From Montgomery Hill—L F Warren.
From New Prospect—G H Bryant.
From New Hope—G W Mixon, J F Mixon.
From Ramah—J Powell, T N Moody.
From Sepulga—J P Kelly.
From Salem—G K Fountain, W D Fountain and W T Snider.
From Union—J C Ediker and J E Garner.
From Zion—W A Fountain, E D Hixon, D M McNeil, S J Bivin and E B O'Gwinn.
From Brewer's Creek—Jno Russell. W L Joiner.
From Arkadelphia—Jeff Ellis and George Lee.

The following named Brethren were appointed tellers of the election for officers for the ensuing year, to.wit, W. A. Loveless, W. T. Nettles and Rev. John Holly, and the election ordered, which resulted in the election of J. W. Leslie as Moderator, Thos. S. Wiggins as Clerk, aed E. P. Loveless as Treasurer.

Dr. B. F. Riley was recognized as a representative of the Home Mission Board, Rev. L. D. Bass of the State Convention, Revs. H. G. B. Ray, Wm. Edwards, S. W. Jones and E. P. Lee as messengers from the Elam Association.

A committee was appointed, consisting of Rev. B. H. Crumpton, Rev. B. J. Skinner and G. R. Farnham, to examine into the applications of a number of newly constituted churches for admission into the Association, and the morning session closed.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 2:30 p. m. the Association again met, and after prayer

by Rev. S. W. Jones, was announced ready for business.

By request, the Committee on Sunday Schools was granted further time to make their report.

The Report on Denominational Education was read, and after being discussed by Dr. B. F. Riley, Rev. B. H. Crumpton and C. S. Rabb, was adopted. It is as follows:

REPORT ON DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION.

Denominational Education is education fostered and controlled by a denomination of Christians, and is distinguished from secular or state education. We have nothing to say against secular education. We have some fine institutions, of which we are justly proud. But in our denominational institutions we have the right to say what shall be the moral and religious character of the teachers under whom our children are placed. Only in our own institutions have we this right. We do not think too great an estimate can be placed upon this fact. In the wisdom of a majority of our last convention, it was seen best to remove Howard College from Marion to East Lake, near Birmingham. For more than forty years Marion and Howard College to the Baptist hosts of Alabama were synonymous. To the hands of a nobler, more sacrificing or devoted Christian people no college was ever committed than was Howard College in charge of our Brethren at Marion; and it was with deep regret that there was found a necessity for its removal. At East Lake we trust and believe it will be in the hands of brethren who will prove themselves their peers. The College has been well organized in its new home, and we commead it yet as our own belowed institution and urge for it our full patronage. The Judson is under the control of Dr. S. W. Averett, a teacher of fine experience in female education. So, now equipped, is worthy the patronage of all who estimate a thorough Christian education.

Respectfully submitted,

W. T. Nettles,
W. B. Kemp, } Committee.

The Report on Missions was submitted by Rev. B. H. Crumpton and on motion was made the subject for consideration at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

The Report on Ministerial Education was also postponed.

On motion, a Committee on Denominational Literature was appointed, to-wit: C. S. Rabb, Rev. J. E. Bell and Rev. B. H. Crumpton.

A committee, composed of Rev. B. H. Crumpton, Rev. B. J. Skinner and G. R. Farnham was appointed to examine into and report upon the application of the following newly constituted churches for admission into the Association, to-wit: Dunham, New Hopewell, Mt. Arrarat, Mt. Pleasant and Repton. The committee, after consideration, reported

favorably on each of the applications and said churches were thereupon, on motion, received.

On motion, the 4th article of the Constitution of the Association was amended by striking out the following words, to-wit: "Upon due examination," where they occur in said article.

The following messengers to the next session of the Pine Barren Association were appointed, to-wit: Rev. J. E. Bell, Rev. John Holly, Rev. B. H. Crumpton and S. P. Lindsey.

To the Elim Association—Rev. I. Spence, Rev. B. H. Crumpton and E. P. Loveless.

To the Zion Association—Rev. Jehu Holly.

To the State Convention—Revs. J. E. Bell, B. H. Crumpton, B. J. Skinner, E. P. Loveless, G. R. Farnham, and C. S. Rabb.

Session adjourned to 8:30 to-morrow morning.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—8:30 O'CLOCK.

The session was opened by religious exercises conducted by Rev. Wm. Edwards.

A committee on Sunday Schools was appointed, composed of the following brethren, to-wit: G. R. Farnham, B. H. Lee, W, N. Browner, J. A. Barrow and Matthew Crosby.

Also Committee on Woman's Work, consisting of C. S Rabb, W. B. Salter, F. M. Deer, J. F. Mixon and J. E. Garner.

Also on Denominational Education, composed of Rev. J. E. Bell, G. R. Stamps, J. T. Fincher, W. T. King and W. H. Saunders.

Also Committee on Missions, to-wit: Rev. I. Spence, Rev. Jehu Holly, J. F. Joiner, M. P. Stewart and Burrell Quimbey.

Also Committee on Temperance, to-wit: Rev. S. P. Lindsey, W. A. Fountain, W. B. Kemp, W. A. Loveless and B. B. McMillan.

Committee also appointed on Ministerial Education, to-

wit: Rev. B. H. Crumpton, Rev. J. E. Deer, C. M. Arnold, W. L. Pickard and W. D. Fountain, to report at next session.

The report on Ministerial Education from standing committee was submitted by Rev. B. J. Skinner, and after some discussion, was re-committed to the following committee, to-wit: Rev. B. H. Crumpton, W. T. Nettles and E. P. Loveless.

At 10:30 a. m., being the time especially set for consideration of the Report on Missions, that report was taken up and ably discussed by Rev. B. H. Crumpton and Dr. B. F. Riley. It was then adopted, together with the report from the Associational Executive Committee. submitted by G. R. Farnham, Chairman of the committee, as follows:

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

The subject of missions is the sum of all the enterprises claiming our attention. Everything else is a factor in the fullfilment of our Lord's commission. Practical missions is the sum total or completion. Happy is the man or the church recognizing this grand truth. Never is the answer to christianity obtained until it is not only found in the theoretical christian vocabulary, but in the intense, practical operations of the body of Christ. Let us no longer merely bear, but deserve the name of Missionary Baptist.

No candid searcher after truth will require any labored or extended effort to convince him that the gospel was designed for, adapted and sent to the world, if he will but read or hear the commission to christians: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, etc."

It is ours to ascertain what we, as a boasted scriptural body of christians, are doing toward the observance of our leader's orders, Your committee would suggest that we partially are, and partially are not doing our duty.

First. we are organized. This is essential to success in any campaign. Let a nation begin war and no organieation, no combination; in vain will they plead the justice of their cause unless organization were impossible. in which event it may then be well said: "The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong." We have first and foremost a Foreign Mission Board located at Richmond, Va., under the chief Secretaryship of Dr. H. A. Tupper, a man eminently adapted to the work, as its success will show. Bro. Bell of South Carolina has been appointed as assistant Secretary. There are just enough officers to execute the work, and by combination they do the work which would require at least ten times the men under a more segregated system. They have under their supervision, Mission stations in Africa, Italy, China, Brazil and Mexico, and are lengthening their cords and strengthening their stakes as rapidly as the responses of the churches will admit. They report 228 baptisms, 1551 members. 65 churches and stations, 587 pupils. and $3,012,61 contributions for the space of twelve months. What Association of a similar number of churches and members in this country does much more? Yet some men say, "Foreign Missions is a failure." The State of Alabama is asked, for the next year, for $5,000.00 for

this good work, an average of about five cents to the member throughout the state.

Next: The Home Board, located at Atlanta, Ga., with Dr. I. T. Tichenor as Secretary, one of Alabama's noblest specimens of piety, management and scholarship. Dr. J. Wm Jones of Richmond, has recently been appointed Assistant Secretary. This also ask for $5,000.00 the next year. They have 251 missionaries, who baptized 3,923 members last year, about 15 to the preacher. Their field is Cuba, in which a mervelous work is being done, the Western frontiers large city mission stations, the Indians and colored people. Last, but not least, we have the State Mission Board, located at Marion, Ala., wilh Rev. W. B. Crumpton as Secretary. This is the board with which we are most closely connected. It is through this board, we are asked by its Secretary, to contribute to all others. It has charge of all State work. The weak churches it tries to aid, and new and growing state towns it tries to occupy. It has established at Marion a Baptist Book Depository, from which we can get any Baptist literature as cheap as from any place in the South. The number baptized last year by its missionaries are 590; baptized by others in connection with their labors 483. There was an increase in contributions the last year notwithstanding the stinginess of the times. Aged and indigent ministers also is an object of this Board's contributions; also Bible and Colportage Work. Let us be sure and distinguish between this and the Home Board.

The second essential to success in any campaign is thorough drilling. There we are deficient. We seem to think the uniform and connection with the army are all that is necessary. The Missionary Baptist Churches need drilling. We do not step to the beat of the drum, we do not step together. We must have more unanimity, more co-operation. It is high time pastors and deacons were drilling their churches in the nature and necessity of mission work, and hence, necessarily, corresponding systematic contributions for this work. We recommend as an aid to such drilling and development, the envelope system, recommended by our State Board Secretary; any number of them can be procured by addressing him at Marion; also an accompanying explanation as to how to use them.

Brethren, are we doing our duty in this great work of our Lord? The State Board asks for $5000.00. Will we do our part, even at a little sacrifice? It is not 20c. per capita asked for. Some of us must give more, some will never give anything. Bro. I. Spence has done a great work in our Associatian. Let us raise more than enough for his support and help the regions beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

B. H. Crumpton.

Account of Receipts and disbursements by G. R. Farnham, Chairman, Executive Committee, Bethlehem Association.

1887.							Object.
Jan. 11.	To amount from	Ladies Mis. So				6 19	S M
Jan. 11.	"	"	"	Evergreen church		80	S M
Jan. 11.	"	"	"	"	Sunday S	9 25	S M
Feb. 7.	"	"	"	"	Church col	8 60	S M
" 18.	"	"	"	"	Ladies Mis. So	6 40	S M
Mar. 16.	"	"	"	"	Brewton church	10 00	S M
Apr'l 9.	"	"	"	"	Brewton church	5 00	H M
" "	"	"	"	"	Brewton church	4 20	F M
" 11.	"	"	"	"	Evergreen S S	6 65	S M
" 11.	"	"	"	"	Evergreen S S	5 60	F M
" 11.	"	"	"	"	Evergreen S S (Diaz)	1 00	F M
" 11.	"	"	"	"	Evergreen S S	50	M E

"	11.	"	"	"	"	Ladies Mis. So	2 95	F M
"	11.	"	"	"	"	Ladies Mis. So	3 00	S M
"	11.	"	"	"	"	Ladies Mis. So	1 00	H M
"	11.	"	"	"	"	Ladies Mis. So	75	M E
"	11.	"	"	"	"	Pine Grove S S	3 00	F M
"	23.	"	"	"	"	Munroeville church	1 55	M E
"	23.	"	"	"	"	Monroeville church	45	F M
May	2.	"	"	"	"	Evergreen church	6 30	F M
"	16.	"	"	"	"	Ladies Mis. So	30	F M
"	16.	"	"	"	"	Ladies Mis. So	80	H M
"	16.	"	"	"	"	Ladies Mis. So	65	S M
"	16.	"	"	"	"	Ladies Mis. So	70	M E
"	26.	"	"	"	"	Fairfield	4 00	S M
"	26.	"	"	"	"	Fairfield	1 00	F M
"	26.	"	"	"	"	Fairfield	1 00	H M
"	26.	"	"	"	"	Fairffeld	1 50	A&I M
Jun.	7.	"	"	"	"	P R Prewton church	8 10	S M
Ju'y	14.	"	"	"	"	Evergreen church	8 40	S M
Ju'y	14.	"	"	"	"	Ladies Mis. So	1 45	F M
Ju'y	14.	"	"	"	"	Sunday School	4 70	F M
Ju'y	14.	"	"	"	"	Sunday School	4 70	S M

1887.		To amount brought forward	120 49	Object
Ju'y	21	To amount Pine Grove S S	1 10	F M
Aug	9	To amount Brooklyn Mis. So	4 00	S M
Aug	9	To amount Damascus church	3 00	S M
Aug	12	To amount P R Brewton church	10 00	S M
Sept	2	To amount Fairfield Ladies Mis. So	90	F M
Sept	26	To amount Evergreen church	25 40	
Sept	26	To amount Evergreen Sunday School	8 80	
Sept	26	To amount Ladies Mis, So	3 00	17669
		Total		17669-17669
1887		Disbursement		
Jan.	11	By amount paid I. Spence	16 24	
Feb	16	By amount paid I. Spence	15 00	
Apr	6	By amount paid I. Spence	10 00	
Apr	11	By amount paid I Spence	9 65	
Apr	11	By amount paid W. B. Crumpton	24 00	
May	21	By amount paid W. B Crumpton	10 10	
May	27	By amount paid I. Spence	4 65	
June	8	To amount paid I. Spence	10 00	
July	14	To amount paid I. Spence	8 40	
Aug	1	To amount paid W. P. Crumpton	9 30	
Aug	18	To amount paid I. Spence	11 70	
Sept	10	To amount paid I. Spence	10 00	
sept	27	To amount paid E P Loveless, Treas	37 65	17669

Respectfully submitted,

G. R. Furnham,
J. W. Leslie,
E. P. Loveless.
Chairman.

The Committee on preaching, arrainged for preaching to night at the Baptist church, by Rev. L. D. Bass, and at the Methodist church by Rev. F. C. Waite.

At 2 o'clock P. M. the hour set for the consideration of the report on woman's work. On motion the same was suspended until 3 o'clock P. M.

Report on Sunday Schools was submitted by J. T. Fincher, and on motion was recommitted.

3 P. M. Report on Woman's Work, submitted by J. W. Leslie, Chairman, was resumed, and after discussion was adopted, together with the Report of Mrs. G. R. Farnham, President of Woman's work in the Association as follows:

REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

Within the last few years, that department of christian labor, classed under the head of woman's work, has deepened and broadened, until it ranks now, as one of the most important among the recognized instrumentalities in the great work of winning the world for Christ.

In looking over the reports from Foreign mission fields, we find devoted, self-sacrificing women, cheerfully enduring privations and encountering dangers, that they may aid in carrying the glad tidings to those who are dwelling in darkness and the shadow of death. And it may be that their labors are crowned with even more abundant success than those of their brethren since their efforts being principally among women and children, they deal with more plastic material. Moreover, the educated christian women can win her way into quarters inaccessible to her sterner brothers. She is looked upon as a wonder, a prodigy, and can consequently gain attention where a man would fail.

In some parts of China, that vast and important mission field, the education of women is almost unknown, the natives generally regard their women as inferior beings, destitute of souls, and therefore unworthy of an education. They are treated as mere beasts of burden, and to many of these poor oppressed creatures, the gospel of Christ, which opens to their view the hope of a blissful immortality is joyful tidings indeed, and is listened to with grateful eagerness. "See," said one poor woman to the faithful worker who had been telling her of the Savior, pointing as she spoke to her straggling grey locks, "See how my hair has grown white while I have been waiting to hear what you have just told me."

What unutterable joy must fill the hearts of these consecrated women, as they hear the entreaty from those whom they have been instructing, "Tell us more of the true God."

But it is only a small number who are privileged to bear testimony for Jesus in heathen lands. Among the women of Isreal, there was only one Deborah, who sat under the palm trees judging the people in righteousness. Wherever our lot in life is cast there. God has placed our work, and christian women in their sheltered homes in this happy land, can help on the work by their labors, their prayers and by giving of their substance as they are able, and by encouraging others to do so. If any are indifferent, they can tell them of their poor embruted sisters, crushed beneath the sorrows and sufferings of heathenism, and waiting in uncomplaining misery for the blessed tidings that, "the Healer has come." Surely no woman's heart could resist the pathetic, yet unconscious appeal, "Come over and help us."

Another powerful agency for good in the hands of women, is the Sunday School. Here, week after week are gathered together the future men and women of the church, who are to take up and carry on the work, as it falls

from the hands that now uphold it. What an inestimable privilege to guide these youthful spirits in the right path ; to teach them how blessed, how happy is a life spent in the service of our King.

But it is in the home circle, that the influence of women is most widely felt. Tbere, it is her province to water the first drawings of intellect in the infant mind and to make those early impressions, which are to tell for good or evil, upon all after life. How important then that mothers should "walk softly" in the presence of these young immortals, and by example as well as precept, show them the loveliness of a christian life ! To be able to do this she must often be found, like Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus, and there obtain strength and grace to fit her for training these little ones intrusted to her care.

An intelligent christian woman used to say, that she never heard the tramping of her boys feet in the house, or listened to their noisy play, or watched their unconscious slumbers, without an inward, earnest prayer to God for wisdom to train, and for the Spirit of the high to guide them.

Finally, woman may be workers for Christ by so consecrating themselves, their time and talents, all that tbey have and are, to His service that their unconscious influence may speak for Him at all times. As some one has truthfully said, "The serene silent beautity of a holy life, is the most powerful influence in the world, next to the might of God."

REPORT OF MRS. G. R. FARNHAM.

Report of receipts and disbursements by Mrs. G. R. Farnham, President of Woman's Work in Bethlehem Association.

Receipts.

To amount from Evergreen Ladies Mis. So	$47 40
To amounl from Brooklyn Ladies Mis. So	4 00
To amount from Claiborne Ladies Mis So	10 24
To amount from Fairfield Ladies Mit. So	11 40
To amount from Pine Grove Ladies Mis. So	4 85
Total receipts	77 89

Disbursements.

By amount paid W B Crumpton and Ex-Committee, Bethlehem Associatian	74 89
Amount sent up to the Association and paid E. P Loveless, Treasurer	3 00

Recapitulation.

Total received by me	77 89
Amount paid by Claiborne Ladies Mis. So. directly to I Spence	7 60
To amount Brooklyn Ladies Mis. So	10 00
To W B Crumpton	95 49

The Report on Denominational Literature was submitted and adopted as follows :

REPORT ON DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE.

We the Committee on Denominational Literature, beg leave to say that we are gratified to report the Alabama Baptist is increasing in circulation

and usefulness, and becoming more thoroughly alive to every interest of the denomination. We recommend the Foreign Mission Journal, published at Richmond, Va., and the Heathen Helper, issued from Louisville, Ky., under the auspices of the Woman's Missionary Society; Kind Words, under the management of Brother S. Boykin, at Atlanta, Ga., and the American Baptist Publication Society, issued from Philadelphia, Pa., should be used in all our Sunday Schools.

We urge upon every pastor the importance of putting our State paper in the hands of each member, and recommend that each brother use his influence to increase the circulation of the Alabama Baptist.

Respectfully submitted,

C. S. RABB, Chairman.

The Report of the Statistical Committee was submitted and adopted, as follows:

Your Committee on Statistics, Report as follows:

REPORT ON STATISTICS.

We find that the Association has raised the following amounts for purposes named.

State Missions	$365 59
Home Missions	80 81
Foreign Missions	111 45
Ministerial Education	17 35

We find further that the membership of this Association is as follows:

In 1887	25 58	Decr.
In 1886	26 25	67
Number of baptisms for present year are	1 84	
Number of Sabbath Schools	26	
Averege attendance of all Sabbath Schools	7 22	
Number of churches represented	41	
Number of new churches formed	5	

Respectfully submitted,

JNO. P. WATKINS,
W. T. NETTLES,
WM. BRAWNER,
JOHN HOLLY.
Committee.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE,

This Association has spoken so often upon the baneful influence of intemperance, of its evil effects on society as a corrupter of morals; as the fountain head of crime, the oppressor of woman and the filler of poor houses, that we deem it unnecessary to enlarge on this head.

We feel that we have reason to be thankful at the progress of prohibition since the last meeting of this body. Conecuh county has stringent laws passed by the last Legislature. In Butler county, the saloon as a creature of law will step down and out on the first day of January next; in fact there is but one saloon within the haunts of the Bethlehem Association.

The Baptists in the last Legislature in the main took a high stand for prohibition; in fact they went as far as they cou'd go.

What then is our duty as a denomination of Christians?

First, we would say educate the young and rising generation in the Sab-

bath school. They will soon take our places in church and state.
Second, we would say educate the people from the pulpit.
Lastly, we would say educate them in all laudable ways.

Respectfully submitted.

E P Loveless, Chairman.

The above report was submitted and adopted.

The report on Sunday Schools was submitted and adopted as follows:

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your committee would report, there are but twenty-six Sunday schools reported by the forty-nine churches.

This would indicate to us that there is a lack of zeal in this great work, and as we regard this work of eminent importance and one that has been blessed of God for great good.

We therefore recommend that the Association have at least one Sunday School Convention during the year within its bounds; that each church be requested to send delegates to the same, and that this Association appoint a committee to arrange a programme and appoint a time and place for holding said convention.

Respectfully submitted,

J T Fincher, Chairman.

Pursuant to the recommendation in the above report, a committee was appointed consisting of G. R. Farnham and J. T. Fincher, to which, on motion, the Moderator, J. W. Leslie, was added, to arrange programme, time and place for holding S S. convention.

The report on Ministerial Education, after considerable discussion on a matter outside of its merits, was adopted and is as follows:

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Ministerial Education in Alabama, we are glad to report, is increasing. The Board at Montgomery reported having aided twenty-four last year; and expended for this $2028.50. This was spent in supporting ministerial students at Howard College, the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and at different academies.

Much of the indifference on the part of this Association to this important department of christian labor is owing no doubt, largely to the fact that from our bounds no young brother has been assisted for years.

Brother S P Lindsay, a young brother of promise has been licensed by the Monroeville church, and expects to attend the Howard early in the beginning of the next year. We heartily recommend him to the favorable consideration of this body. Your committee recommend that funds hereafter furnished for ministerial education be in the shape of a loan, the borrower giving his note for the amount received, without interest and to be refunded whenever in the providence of God, he is able to thus refund. We furthermore recommend that all monies contributed to this enterprise, except such as may be otherwise directed by donors, be sent to the Board of Ministerial Education, to be expended on any beneficiary of this body, if

any, or any one else if none, provided the party receiving the benefaction shall comply with the foregoing recommendation, by giving his note to the Executive Committee of this Association, who are herein and now empowered to act for the body.

Respectfully submitted,

B W Crumpton,
W T Nettles,
E P Loveless.

The following resolutions were offered by G. R. Farnham and Rev. B. J. Skinner, and adopted:

Resolved, That if, from the withdrawal of any considerable number of churches the Moderator of this Association shall, if he deem best, change the place of the next meeting of this Association to some more central place among the churches remaining.

Resolved, That all such churches in this Association as may wish to withdraw with a view to forming a new Association, may at any time between now and the next meeting of this Association, file their petitionary letters with the Moderator of this Association, and their action in this behalf shall be equivalent to a formal withdrawal from this Association.

Rev J E Bell, Rev B H Crumpton and Rev L D Bass, the committee for the Board of Ministerial Education, on examination of S P Lindsay, a licentate to the ministry, made a favorable report, recommending him to the Association and to the Board.

Preaching was announced for the evening at 7:30 as follows:

At the Baptist church, by Rev L D Bass.

At M E Church, by Rev F C Waite, and at the Crawfordville church, by Rev S W Jones.

THIRD DAY, 8:30 A. M.

The Association was called to order, and after religious exercises conducted by Rev. F. C. Waite, proceeded to business.

The report of the committee on querries and requests, was on motion recommitted and Brethren J. E. Deer and E. P. Loveless added to the committee.

On motion, the amount of $8.00, sent in by Bro. Y. M. Rabb, was appropriated to State Missions.

The report of Finance Committee was submitted and adopted. (See Report.)

At 10 a. m., the minutes of the association up to the present, were read and approved.

The report on the State of Religion was read and adopted as follows:

STATE OF RELIGION.

Your committee on State of religion beg leave to report that after an examination of the letters sent up by the churches, that there is an increase in the number of Sabbath schools, twenty-nine against twenty-six, last report, but a falling off in the number of baptisms, 275 last report, 151 present report, and only a small increase in the amount for missions, which proves only a small increase in the spiritual condition of the churches. Some are giving more, some less. We recommend that the pastors preach more on missions, that their people may be more thoroughly indoctrinated in the great work of Missions.

Respectfully submitted,
I. SPENCE, Chairman.

The following resolution was offered and adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be, and is hereby tendered to the citizens of Brewton for their generous hospitality to the committee on entertainment, for their earnest efforts to add to our comfort, to the L. & N. R. R. for giving reduced rates to the delegetes to this Association, and to the Methodists for the use of their house of worship.

The following pledges were taken in aid of Bro. S. P. Lindsey, to aid him in qualifying for the ministry, viz:

Monroeville Church, as a gift	$10 00
Philadelphia Church, as a gift	5 00
Claiborne Church, as a gift	5 00
Georgiana Church, as a gift	5 00
Evergreen Church, as a loan	10 00
Union Church, as a gift, paid	1 00
Brooklyn Church, not stated	2 50
Mrs. McCreary, not stated, paid	1 00
Rev. Jehu Holly, gift, paid	5 00
Bellville Church, loan	5 00
Mt. Carmel Church, not stated	2 50
Oak Grove Church, gift	2 50
Pilgrim's Rest Church, loan	5 00
Mrs. M. P. Parker, gift	1 00
Mrs. P. E. Ballard, gift	1 00
Mrs. L. May, gift	5 00
Mrs. —— ———, gift, paid	50
Amounting to	$58 00

On motion, the Treasurer was directed to pay the amounts in his hands as indicated in the report of the Finance Committee. Also, to pay the funds for minutes over to the Clerk, who is to be allowed twenty dollars for preparing the minutes and having them printed and distributed. and should a surplus remain to turn it over to State Missions.

The Committee on Queries and Requests reported as follows:

Your Committee beg leave to report that we find two requests, one from Brooklyn and one from Georgiana, asking that the next session of this body be held with them. We recommend that the Association meet with the Georgiana Church, on Tuesday after the fourth Sabbath in September, 1888.

We find a request from Midway Church for a letter of dismission from this Association.

Respectfully submitted.

J. T. FINCHER, Chairman.

On motion, the report was adopted, the request of Midway Church granted and the Clerk directed to prepare an appropriate letter or certificate to that effect.

On motion, the Committee of the Association was continued for the ensuing year.

The following report of the Treasurer was submitted and adopted, viz:

E. P. Loveless in Account with the Bethlehem Association--

DR.

To amount voucher explained by G. R. Farnham			$153 00
" "	Collection		20 00
" "	Reeceived from Finance Committee		308 80
" "	Received in vouchers		204 20
" "	Received from Executive Committee		37 65
	Total		$723 65

CR.

By amount paid Rev. I. Spence		$404 52	
" "	Paid Clerk	67 00	
" "	To be paid F. M. Board	96 10	
" "	To be paid H. M. Board	84 36	
" "	Indigent Ministers	10 90	
" "	Ministerial Education	14 90	
" "	Balance on hand	45 88	
			$723 65

We find that there is not enough money in the treasury to pay Bro. I Spence the amount still due him by $136.97. We, therefore, recommend that some steps be taken at once to meet this deficit.

Respectfully submitted.

E. P. LOVELESS, Treasurer.

On motion, the sum of $45.88, in the hands of the Treasurer unappropriated, was directed to be paid over to Rev. I. Spence as a credit on the amount due him. Pledges were also made by the churches through their delegates amounting nearly to the balance due Bro. Spence.

On motion the Clerk was requested to have published with the Minutes the Articles of Faith as adopted by the Church and heretofore published in the Minutes of this Association.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet in its next annual session with the Georgiana Church, in Butler county, on Tuesday after the fourth Sabbath in September, 1888.

J. W. Leslie, Moderator.

Thos. S. Wiggins, Clerk.

ARTICLE OF FAITH—PROOF TEXT,

ARTICLE 1. We believe in only one true and living God; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

ARTICLE 2. We believe the Old and New Testaments to be the revealed mind and will of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

ARTICLE 3. We believe in the doctrine of Election, that God chose His people in Christ before the World began.

ARTICLE 4. We believe in the doctrine of Original Sin.

ARTICLE 5. We believe in man's incapacity, by his own free will, and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.

ARTICLE 6. We believe that sinners are justified, in the sight of God, by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE 7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, justified and glorified.

ARTICLE 8. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are Gospel ordinances; that Immersion is the only mode of baptism; that believers are the only subjects.

ARTICLE 9. We believe that only regularly baptized members in good standing have a right to the Lord's table.

ARTICLE 10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment, and that the joys of the righteous, and punishment of the wicked, shall be everlasting.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE FROM THE BETHLEHEM ASSOCIATION.

Churches.	State Missions.		Foreign Missions		Home Missions.		Indigent Ministers.		Ministerial Education.		Minutes Fund.
	Cash.	Vo'c's.	Cash.	Vo'c's.	Cash.	Vo'c's.	Cash.	Vo'c's.	Cash.	Vo'c's.	
Montgomery Hill	0 85	1 50	1 30		1 95						$ 1 00
Little River											
Claiborne	4 40	16 60	25		70				1 00		2 75
Enon	1 50	3 50									1 00
Pleasant Hill	1 45	1 90									75
Poplar Springs	1 15	1 50	80		50		50				65
Philadelphia		7 60	6 40		12 00						1 60
Monroeville	4 95	13 05	2 05	45	2 55		2 00		3 45	1 55	2 00
Zion	10 00	1 10	5 00		5 00		6 25				2 30
Ramah	5 25	4 00									1 00
Pleasant Ridge	3 40	60									1 20
Bethany	10 00		3 70		3 70					2 50	1 60
Arkadelphia	1 45	1 75	2 25								1 25
Belleville	10 40	2 30									2 50
Cataba Spring	7 75	1 40									1 10
Pilgrim's Rest	12 70	28 10		4 20		5 00		2 15			2 00
Olive Branch		25									1 05
Fairfield	4 00		3 50		2 00				50		1 30
Mars Hill		10 00									1 00
Brownsville											
Cedar Creek											1 50
Antioch											1 20
Brooklyn	15	4 00		12 50		3 35			2 15		3 00
New Hope	0 45										2 00
Brushey Creek	55	1 65		1 00							75
Long Branch	10 00										1 00
Georgiana	15 40	60		6 00	1 00	4 90			1 30	50	2 35
Old Town											1 80
New Prospect	5 00										2 00
Bethesda											
Evergreen		66 64		44 45		39 96				1 95	
Bethel											50
Johnstonville	2 00	1 80									
Oak Grove	1 25	25									1 40
Point Pleasant	1 40	6 25									2 10
Damascus		5 80									90
Mt Carmel	1 35	1 90	50		50						1 60
Midway	5 05										1 40
Salem	4 15	2 25									2 50
Union	5 00	1 75									40
Sepulga	5 00										1 00
Hamilton Hill	2 50	1 00	1 25		1 25						1 00
Dumham	6 05										1 00
Mt Arrarat											1 00
Mt Pleasant		18 40									45
Brewer's Creek	1 50										60
Repton	4 50	12 05									1 30
New Hopewell		5 90									1 00
Total Cash and Vouchers	179 10	225 49	27 00	68 60	31 15	53 21	8 75	2 15	8 40	6 50	$67 00

W. B. Kemp, Chairman.

THE BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION'S STATISTICS FOR 1887.

Churches.	County.	Pastors.	Clerks.	Post Office of Church Clerks	Membership last Reported.	Increase by				Decrease by				Present Membership.	Sunday School			Preaching Sabbaths.	
						Baptism.	Letter.	Experience.	Restoration.	Letter.	Exclusion.	Erasure.	Death.		Officers and Teachers.	Pupils.	Volumes in Library.		
Antioch	Butler	J F Bruner	E H Hudson	Bolling, Ala.	60		3		2	8				57					Names of Ch'rches organized during year: Dunham.. Repton. Montgomery Hill . Mt Arrarat New Hopewell.
Arkadelphia	Conecuh	I L Taylor	T M Salter	Bonnett.	98		1			14	41			44				3rd	
Belleville	"	B J Skinner	J Straghm	Belleville	1 05		3		1	3	8		1	97		25		4th	
Bethany	Monroe	G M Parker	Jno P Watkins	Burnt Corn	65	1	2			4			1	63					
Bethel	Butler		G A Riley	Shell	37		1				1	15		21					
Brewer's Creek	"	J W Joiner	J W Brooks	Bowles	15	13	3				1		1	30					
Brooklyn	Conecuh.	I A White	L J Rayburn	Brooklyn..	92		2		1	1			1	91	7	47			
Brushey Creek	Butler	W H Joiner	C L Fail	Georgiana	46	2	2	2		2	1			49	8	47			
Cataba Springs	Escambia		Wm A Johnson	Pollard	61					3	3	1		54	6	43			
Cedar Creek	Conecuh.	R C Kirkland	S J Stewart	Castleberry	51	4	4			2	6		1	50	3	43			
Claiborne	Monroe	W A Locke.	L R Carter	Perdue Hill	60	3			4	2		8		57					
Damascus	Conecuh	I A White	Jno M Danford		44	15								59				2nd	
Dunham	Butler		G H Tuigpen	Georgiana										17	5	30		2-3	
Enon	Monroe	R J Draughan	A D McNiel	Hollinger	19		1			1				19					
Evergreen.	Conecuh	B H Crumpton	J W Crook.	Evergreen	2 16		7	2		9	2		2	2 04	19	1 10			
Fairfield	"	A A Simms.	F J Dean	Betts	96	18	7			9	2			1 09	4	35			Names of Ch'rches received from Associations.
Georgiana	Butler	J E Bell	Jas M Sims.	Georgiana	1 67	5	7			18	2	24		1 35	10	63			
Long Branch.	Conecuh	J B F Watts	E P Mathews	Cohassett..	53					2				51	4	24		4th	
Mars Hill	Escambia	A J Lambert	J E Boon	Steadham.	55	6	1		2	1				63					
Midway	Monroe	J. Bruner	J C Anthony	Turnbull.	58	3	1		1	2	2			59				4th	
Monroeville	"	B J Skinner	Jno DeLoach	Monroeville.	61	7	11	7		1			4	71	7	58			
Montgomery Hill	"	A J Lambert	L F Warren		42					7	1		1	33		30		1st	
Mt Arrarat		R C Kirkland	David A Smith	Kirkland.										19				4th	
Mt Carmel	Butler	A J Simms.	W J Nicholson	Garland	76	10	5	10		5		17	2	69					
Mt Pleasant	Monroe	A J Lambert	G W Faulk	Mt Pleasant.										17					
New Hope	Conecuh.	S Moore	M A Lane	Olivia	93	2		2		4			2	95					
New Hopewell														20					
New Prospect	Butler	J E Holly	H F Gamble	Georgiana	91					5	1			85	5	34		4th	
Oak Grove	Monroe.	J L Eddins..	M Stacey	Monroeville.	68	6		1		4	3		1	67					
Old Town	Conecuh		T M Deer	Herbert.												25			
Olive Branch.	"	J Holly	J B Long	Evergreen	63	2					6		1	59					
Philadelphia	Monroe	B J Skinner	J D Nettles	Kempville	1 10	3				5			2	1 06					
Pilgrims' Rest	Escambia	J E Bell	M F Brooks	Brewton..	1 02	3	7			2	2		3	1 05	15	98			
Pleasant Ridge	Monroe	W A Locke	Jas L Smith	Monroeville.	65	4	3		1					68		20			
Pleasant Hill	"	W A Locke	Jno H Moore	Perdue Hill	51	2	2				1			54		23			
Point Pleasant	Escambia	S L Lowery	S J Holland	Brewton	56	8	7		5	19	1		1	55				3rd	
Poplar Springs	Monroe	A J Lambert	W A House	Mt Pleasant.	32	4			2		2			36					
Ramah	"	J H Higdon	I A Riley.	Burnt Corn	94	5	1				3		1	96					
Repton	Conecuh			Repton..										17					
Salem	Monroe	W A Locke	G W Thompson	Perdue Hill	1 00	2				5	3			1 00	2	38			
Sepulga	Conecuh		J A Hyde	Mt Union	41	1					1			41					
Union	"		M A Ray	Sepulga	85	4	1	4	1	1	2	4	1	87	3	25			
Zion	Monroe.	A P Majors	C C McWilliams	Axle	1 10	11	3		3	5	1		1	1 20				1st	
					27 38	1 44	85	28	23	1 36	99	69	27	27 49	98	8 18			

EXHIBIT "A" TO REPORT OF EX COMMITTEE.

DATE.	Churches Visited.	Sermons Preached.	Churches Constituted.	Sunday Schools Organized	Ladies Missio'y So. Organized.	Prayer Meetings Organized.	Religious Visits to Families.	Miles Traveled.	Number Persons Baptized.	Baptized by Others in Connection with Work.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Meeting Houses Commenced.	Meeting Houses Furnished.	Subscribers to Ala. Baptist.	Money Received.
1886.																
September.	3	27	....	....	....	....	25	1 50	....	15	2	4	....	....	5	14 70
October.....	4	33	1	....	....	....	28	2 10	11	7	..	2	....	....	5	20 05
November.	3	22	1	....	1	1	37	2 42	....	4	....	....	....	....	7	15 50
December.	5	20	....	1	....	1	35	1 60	4	....	....	....	....	....	1	90
1887.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
January...	5	7	....	....	1	....	25	1 42	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	21 99
February..	3	15	....	1	....	....	35	1 47	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	22 00
March....	27	28	....	1	....	....	56	3 06	....	....	2	....	....	....	3	32 00
April.....	11	14	....	1	....	....	44	2 05	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	55 15
May	3	28	....	1	....	1	56	2 60	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6 00
June.....	3	22	....	1	....	....	40	2 16	6	....	4	1	....	....	*1	16 25
July.....	3	36	....	....	....	....	45	1 55	....	....	2	1	....	....	....	8 30
August ...	3	34	....	1	....	1	55	1 74	3	7	..	2	..	....	..	11 70
September.	5	25	....	....	....	....	46	1 23	4	5	1	1	....	....	....	13 50
Totals.....	78	3 11	2	7	2	4	5 27	24 30	28	38	11	11	....	....	23	238 04

THE ALABAMA BAPTIST

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